

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Forest Department - Diversion of 202.50 Ha. of forest land, in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for their proposed Ravindrakhani Open Cast Project (Phase-I), in Indaram Reserve Forest in Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest Division, Adilabad District – Permission – Accorded – Orders – Issued.

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**ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O Ms. No. 71**

**Dated:17-08-2013.**

**Read the following:-**

1. From PCCF, AP, Hyderabad, Lr.Rc.No.34387/08-F1, dt.30-01-2010.
2. State Govt. letter No.811/For.I(I)/2010-1, dt.15-2-2010.
3. From GoI, MoEF, Lr. F. No.8-26/2010-FC, dt.13-7-2011.
4. State Govt. letter No.811 /For.I(I)/2010, dt.10-10-2012
5. From GoI, MoEF, Lr. F. No.8-26/2010-FC, dt.31-5-2013.

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**ORDER:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in his letter 1<sup>st</sup> read above, has submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 202.50 Ha. of forest land in Indaram RF of Mancherial Division for Ravindrakhani Open Cast Project (RK-OCP) Phase-I, in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The said proposal was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide State Government letter 2<sup>nd</sup> read above.

3. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, vide their letter 3<sup>rd</sup> read above, have accorded their approval in-principle (Stage.I) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions as stipulated therein.

4. The State Government vide letter 4<sup>th</sup> read above, have furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, while according in-principle (Stage-I) approval. The State Government vide further letter dated. 20-2-2013 have furnished certain additional information as desired by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests.

5. Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter 5<sup>th</sup> read above, have accorded their approval (Stage-II) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 202.50 Ha. of forest land, in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for their proposed Ravindrakhani Open Cast Project (Phase-I), in Indaram Reserve Forest in Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest Division, Adilabad District, subject to certain conditions as stipulated therein.

6. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, for diversion of 202.50 Ha. of forest land, in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for their proposed Ravindrakhani Open Cast Project (Phase-I), in Indaram Reserve Forest in Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest Division, Adilabad District, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

- (ii) Compensatory Afforestation over equivalent non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds realized from the User Agency.
- (iii) The non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as Reserved Forest under Section 4 or Protected Forest under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, within a period of six months.
- (iv) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation, at the current wage structure, to the State Forest Department.
- (v) The State Government shall realize the additional NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the Ad-hoc CAMPA.
- (vi) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 Mtrs. strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) shall be done undertaken by the User Agency at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost.
- (vii) The State Government shall implement the detailed proposal for harvesting and conservation of rain water in vicinity of the forest land proposed to be diverted prepared by the user agency from funds realized from the user agency.
- (viii) The State Government shall implement the detailed plan for promotion of Agro-Forestry and Social Forestry in vicinity of forest land proposed to diverted from funds realized from the user agency.
- (ix) The period of diversion under this approval shall be twenty (20) years or till the expiry of the valid mining lease in favour of the User Agency, in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, for the forest area to be diverted or till the life of the project, whichever is earlier.
- (x) The User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4) located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease.
- (xi) The User Agency shall, in consultation with the forest department, study soil erosion from the over-burden areas.
- (xii) The User Agency shall take up the de-silting of the village tanks located within five Km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks whenever required.
- (xiii) The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation of the concurrent reclamation plan shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore. If it is found from the annual report that the annual activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time such activities are satisfactorily executed.

- (xiv) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (xv) Sufficient alternate fuel for cooking etc. shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers.
- (xvi) The User Agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area because of this project.
- (xvii) The entire project area and the safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number, forward and backward bearings etc.
- (xviii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xix) Any other condition that the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore or State Government may impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, and
- (xx) User Agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report, indicating status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval, to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, and
- (xxi) All other conditions including any other standard condition applicable to the diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or any other relevant Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, including the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad is directed to take further necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

M. SAMUEL,  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

**Copy to:**

The Inspector General of Forests,  
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,  
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003

The Chairman & Managing Director,  
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Hyderabad.

SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER.